



ROCHESTER

Plymouth County



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NARRATIVE

Narrative

The Town of Rochester was founded in 1679 and incorporated in 1686. At that time the area now known as Marion, Mattapoisett and West Wareham were all part of Rochester. These towns were subsequently separated from Rochester and by 1857 Rochester stood alone, having had the foresight to reserve rights on the seashores of the other towns. That is why residents of Rochester enjoy rights for shellfish licenses and beach use in communities not their own.

Zoning in Rochester includes industrial, general commercial and residential/agricultural uses. The town's center includes the town hall, library, First Congregational Church and vestry. Across from these buildings is the Plumb Corner Mall, a source of pride to town residents because it was designed to harmonize architecturally with the town green. There are several riding stables in town as well as the Rochester Golf Club, which recently expanded its 9-hole course to an 18-hole course, and a park in the town center which serves as the location for several teams from the active Little League.

Residents describe their community as rural and residential and point out that it still retains many of the farms which were originally the foundation of the town 300 years ago. A quiet, beautiful place within which to live and grow, is their final word on their home town.

(Narrative supplied by community)



GEOGRAPHY

Location

Southeastern Massachusetts, bordered by Lakeville and Middleborough on the north, Wareham and Marion on the east, Mattapoisett on the south, and Acushnet and Freetown on the west. Rochester is about 19 miles northeast of New Bedford; 50 miles south of Boston; 49 miles east of Providence, Rhode Island; and 227 miles from New York City.

Total Area: 36.39 sq. miles

Land Area: 33.93 sq. miles

Population: 3,921

Density: 116 per sq. mile

Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Rochester Station)

Normal temperature in January.....26.3°F

Normal temperature in July.....71.2°F

Normal annual precipitation.....48.2"

U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Snipatuit Pond, Marion, Assawompset Pond, New Bedford North

Regional Planning Agency

Southeastern Regional Planning and
Economic Development District

Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)

New Bedford



GOVERNMENT

Municipal Offices

Main Number: (508) 763-3871

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Form of Government

Board of Selectmen

Administrative Assistant

Open Town Meeting

Year Incorporated

As a town: 1686

Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%	
Total Registered	2,565		
Democrats	503	19.6	%
Republicans	490	19.1	%
Other parties	0	0.0	%
Unenrolled Voters	1,572	61.3	%

Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



DEMOGRAPHICS

Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000

Geographic Area: Rochester town, Plymouth County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	4,581	100.0	HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
SEX AND AGE			Total population.....	4,581	100.0
Male.....	2,297	50.1	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	17	0.4
Female.....	2,284	49.9	Mexican.....	-	-
Under 5 years.....	278	6.1	Puerto Rican.....	7	0.2
5 to 9 years.....	345	7.5	Cuban.....	4	0.1
10 to 14 years.....	392	8.6	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	6	0.1
15 to 19 years.....	314	6.9	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	4,564	99.6
20 to 24 years.....	195	4.3	White alone.....	4,416	96.4
25 to 34 years.....	500	10.9	RELATIONSHIP		
35 to 44 years.....	858	18.7	Total population.....	4,581	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	895	19.5	In households.....	4,577	99.9
55 to 59 years.....	271	5.9	Householder.....	1,575	34.4
60 to 64 years.....	154	3.4	Spouse.....	1,144	25.0
65 to 74 years.....	194	4.2	Child.....	1,537	33.6
75 to 84 years.....	147	3.2	Own child under 18 years.....	1,134	24.8
85 years and over.....	38	0.8	Other relatives.....	171	3.7
Median age (years).....	38.1	(X)	Under 18 years.....	70	1.5
18 years and over.....	3,353	73.2	Nonrelatives.....	150	3.3
Male.....	1,648	36.0	Unmarried partner.....	84	1.8
Female.....	1,705	37.2	In group quarters.....	4	0.1
21 years and over.....	3,203	69.9	Institutionalized population.....	-	-
62 years and over.....	468	10.2	Noninstitutionalized population.....	4	0.1
65 years and over.....	379	8.3	HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE		
Male.....	162	3.5	Total households.....	1,575	100.0
Female.....	217	4.7	Family households (families).....	1,294	82.2
RACE			With own children under 18 years.....	612	38.9
One race.....	4,534	99.0	Married-couple family.....	1,144	72.6
White.....	4,427	96.6	With own children under 18 years.....	544	34.5
Black or African American.....	29	0.6	Female householder, no husband present.....	103	6.5
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	9	0.2	With own children under 18 years.....	44	2.8
Asian.....	16	0.3	Nonfamily households.....	281	17.8
Asian Indian.....	-	-	Householder living alone.....	216	13.7
Chinese.....	7	0.2	Householder 65 years and over.....	90	5.7
Filipino.....	1	-	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	667	42.3
Japanese.....	5	0.1	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	282	17.9
Korean.....	2	-	Average household size.....	2.91	(X)
Vietnamese.....	-	-	Average family size.....	3.20	(X)
Other Asian ¹	1	-	HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	-	-	Total housing units.....	1,634	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	-	-	Occupied housing units.....	1,575	96.4
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	-	-	Vacant housing units.....	59	3.6
Samoan.....	-	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander ²	-	-	occasional use.....	15	0.9
Some other race.....	53	1.2	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	0.6	(X)
Two or more races.....	47	1.0	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	2.6	(X)
<i>Race alone or in combination with one</i>			HOUSING TENURE		
<i>or more other races: ³</i>			Occupied housing units.....	1,575	100.0
White.....	4,470	97.6	Owner-occupied housing units.....	1,464	93.0
Black or African American.....	41	0.9	Renter-occupied housing units.....	111	7.0
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	36	0.8	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.95	(X)
Asian.....	20	0.4	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	2.28	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	1	-			
Some other race.....	61	1.3			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

¹ Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

² Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

³ In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

Home Sales (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

Subsidized Housing Units (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

Public Housing Units (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State:	0
Conventional Federal:	0

Rental Assistance(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP:	0
Federal (Section 8):	0



TRANSPORTATION

TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

Rochester, which is situated in the New Bedford-Fall River Area, is served by the airport and port facilities of New Bedford. In addition, Interstate 195 and State Routes 24 and 140 provide access to the airports, ports, and intermodal facilities of Providence and Boston.

Major Highways

The principal highway is State Route 105, which forms an interchange with Interstate 195 in the neighboring town of Marion. U.S. Route 6, which parallels I-195 along the coast, is also easily accessible in Marion. State Route 28 and Interstate Route 495 pass through or near the northeast corner of Rochester and are easily accessible in the neighboring town of Wareham.

Rail

The Bay Colony Railroad provides freight rail service to Rochester. Contact number: (617) 380-3556

Bus

Rochester is not affiliated with a regional transit authority.

Other

The New Bedford Municipal Airport, a Primary Commercial Service (PR) facility with scheduled passenger service, is easily accessible. The airport has 2 asphalt runways 4,997' and 5,000' long. Instrument approaches available: Precision and non-precision.



CULTURE AND RECREATION

LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

None

RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Recreational Facilities (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



MISCELLANEOUS

HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

Hospitals

None

Long Term Care

None

Hospices

None

Rest Homes

None

UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)

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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.